

SAC Meeting 11/21/25 – Holmes Middle School

The meeting discussed the upcoming nine-day break and the challenges it poses. The school achieved a 25% participation rate in the parent five essentials survey, a significant threshold for data analysis. Holmes Middle School was named the top middle school in Colorado Springs, and a \$750 million bond was proposed to rebuild the school. The school aims to improve community engagement, including CTE tours for eighth graders and targeted outreach to feeder schools. The winter benchmark testing will be conducted on December 2 and 3, and the school is implementing a new English curriculum, Amplify, with mixed results.

Agenda

- Parent 5 Essentials Survey
- Community/Family engagement with new staff and administration
- School Connect framework that was presented at the SAC training- “COS I Love You” review
- Winter Benchmark Testing

Outline

Preparing for the Upcoming Holiday Break

- Discussion of challenges faced by students and families on the day before a lengthy break, including anxiety about food, access, and single-parent households.

Community Engagement and School Outreach

- Discussion of the importance of community engagement and the challenges of reaching families in a certain neighborhoods.
- Draft video made by sixth graders shared, highlighting the students' thoughts on transitioning from elementary to middle school.
- Discussion on the importance of making students feel supported and the feedback from the district about the parent five essentials survey.

School Recognition and Future Plans

- Holmes Middle School was named the number one middle school in Colorado Springs by Springs Magazine!
- Discussion of plans for a \$750 million bond that includes rebuilding several schools, including Holmes Middle School, and the potential impact on staff and students.

Community Engagement and School Programs

- Discussion of the importance of community engagement and the role of new staff administration in connecting with the community.
- Discussion of events like CTE tours for eighth graders and the importance of showcasing the robust CTE and Advanced Placement programs at Coronado High School.

- Discussion for the need of better communication and outreach to families, including telling the school's story, highlighting special class opportunities (FCCLA, Woodshop, etc) the need for a more engaging approach to information night, and updating the school website.

Addressing Student Needs

- Discussion of the importance of addressing student needs and improving academic performance through targeted outreach and support.
- Discussion of the importance of improving school culture and safety, including addressing issues of bullying and creating a supportive environment for students.
- Discussion of the need for ongoing communication and collaboration with parents and the community to address issues of student behavior and safety.

Action Items

- Communicate the CTE and advanced programming opportunities at Coronado High School to 8th grade parents.
- Explore ways to make the 5th/6th grade information night more engaging and focused on the student/family experience, rather than just logistics.
- Enhance the school's website to better highlight the school's programs, community, and "vintage vibe."
- Explore creating a "Future Cougar" club or program that connects middle school and high school students, parents, and administration.

People in attendance: Deb Busier, Rachel Denkwalter, Kayleigh Glaspie-Biondo, Denise LaPlante, Jennifer McCall, Lauren Blazis Walker, Kyle Chamberlain